

REMARKS

The office action of August 20, 2008, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the application is objected to for not containing a proper Abstract of the Disclosure and section headings.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over JP 11-279730 to Masaaki in view of GB 2050432 to Pedley.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Masaaki in view of Pedley et al., and further in view of the patent to Boston et al.

Claim 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Masaaki in view of Pedley et al., and further in view of the patent to Sander et al.

In connection with the Examiner's objections to the application, applicant has attached hereto an Abstract of the Disclosure and has amended the specification to include section headings.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the objections to the application are overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has canceled claims 2-5 and amended claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness pointed out by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on

file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the methods disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references and particularly to the reference to Masaaki, it can be seen that this patent discloses a hot dip galvanizing method restraining the oxidation of zinc.

The reference to Pedley discloses the use of liquefied gas in hot dip metal coating.

The Examiner combined these references in determining that claims 1 and 3 would be unpatentable over such a combination. Applicant respectfully submits that neither of these references, nor their combination, teach a method for suppressing the evaporation of zinc in which a gas mixture is present in the furnace snout above the metal bath as an isolating gas, wherein the gas mixture is argon with admixtures of butane and/or propane, as in the presently claimed invention. The use of argon in combination with butane and/or propane is very inexpensive and also effectively prevents the sublimation and vaporization of zinc. The references do not teach using the gas as defined in the claim now on file.

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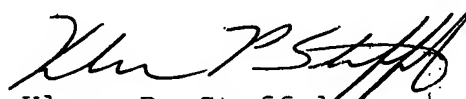
In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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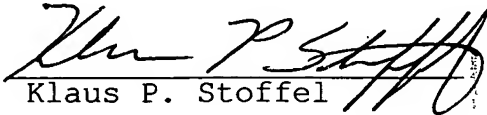


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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By:


Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: November 20, 2008